



1600 9th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
(915) 654-1471

Per Penal Code Section 2978(b), the Department of Mental Health (DMH) and California Department of Corrections (CDC) annually locate and contact Independent professionals who are eligible and willing to serve as Independent Evaluators for the Board of Prison Terms (BPT).

The following will briefly outline the background of the Mentally Disordered Offender (MDO) program pursuant to Penal Code Section 2960-2981, and explain the role of evaluators and the application process:

BACKGROUND

Penal Code Section 2960 (PC 2960) et. seq. provides for a system of evaluation and subsequent mental health treatment a condition of parole for certain CDC inmates.

ROLE OF INDEPENDENT EVALUATORS

Independent Evaluators are appointed and used by BPT under the following circumstances:

1. When there is nonconcurrence between CDC and DMH on whether a prisoner met MDO criteria for involuntary psychiatric treatment as a condition of parole, the independent evaluator will then conduct a subsequent evaluation;
2. For initial certification hearings before BPT (PC 2962);
3. For outpatient placement hearings (conducted at Atascadero, Metropolitan, Napa or Patton State Hospitals) (PC 2964); and
4. For annual review hearings (either in the state hospital or in a local Forensic Conditional Release Program throughout the State) (PC 2966).

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for appointment by BPT, Independent Evaluators must meet four criteria:

1. Be either a licensed psychiatrist or a licensed psychologist with a doctoral degree in psychology;
2. Have at least five years of experience in the diagnosis and treatment of mental disorders; and,
3. Not be a State Government (or Forensic Conditional Release Program) employee.
4. Must be able to pass a background check by the Department of Justice.

APPOINTMENT AND COMPENSATION

Independent Evaluators are appointed and compensated by BPT. The rate paid for the current fiscal year is \$525.00 per evaluation and is inclusive of: 1) a review of all available CDC files and the prisoner/parolee's medical (psychiatric) records, 2) an examination of the prisoner/parolee, 3) a written evaluation report, 4) time, 5) expenses, 6) and all other costs.

APPOINTMENT TO BPT'S LIST OF INDEPENDENT EVALUATORS

If you are interested or if you know of qualified individuals who may be interested in being considered by BPT as an Independent Evaluator, we would appreciate your providing them a copy of this notice and the application form. The completed application should be returned to:

Department of Mental Health
Forensic Services-MDO Unit
1600 9th Street, Room 250
Sacramento, California 95814

For any questions about the appointment process, evaluation process, rate of payment, or any other related questions, call Sally Knornschild at BPT MDO Unit, (916) 322-5930.

[Link to APPLICATION TO SERVE AS AN INDEPENDENT EVALUATOR](#)